GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3087
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
TRADE WITH BANGLADESH
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to allow bilateral trade with Bangladesh through the Haldibari-Chilahati route by road;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this route is likely to be opened in the interest of export of Indian goods to Bangladesh?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c) At the India - Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission(JEC) meeting held in New Delhi in March 1997, the two sides discussed the feasibility of providing additional land routes for facilitating trade between the two countries. In this connection, the two sides agreed to operate additional routes including, inter alia, Haldibari-Chhilihati. The matter was further discussed at the Trade Review Talks between India and Bangladesh held in Dhaka in December 1998; it was noted that the work to operationalise the land customs as per the decision of the last JEC meeting was being carried out.